

years as an aide to Senator Howell Heflin. He also worked for Senators Lister Hill, James Allen, and Maryon Allen before joining Senator Heflin's staff in 1978.

In 1992, the City of Muscle Shoals, Alabama reorganized its government into the current mayor-council structure that it utilizes today. Mayor Mitchell was elected as the city's first mayor.

During his two terms as Mayor, he worked to change the face of the city through numerous building campaigns, including a new high school, a modern library, recreational facilities, and a post office. He also successfully worked to establish an early warning system and address the city's flooding problem.

Madam Speaker, Mayor Mitchell passed away last Saturday. He is survived by his wife Betty and daughters Leslie Ann and Carrie, stepdaughters Kim, Shannon, and Laurel, as well as five grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

Mayor Mitchell was a good friend, community and civic leader that will be missed in both Alabama and Washington. His willingness to help others and dedication to his community is an inspiration for all in North Alabama and across the country to follow. I rise today to celebrate his life and honor his achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. RUTH
ZISES

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the memory of Ruth Zises, a dear friend and role model, who sadly succumbed to illness earlier this year.

Ruth was a unique woman whose presence brightened the faces and warmed the hearts of everyone she encountered. Ruth was a deeply principled woman who wore her passions with profound pride. She was enormously dedicated to her family and friends and intensely devoted to her beliefs. Ruth translated her convictions into action by founding, together with her family, the Genesis Center in Jerusalem, an academy devoted to enhancing the lives of young adults by incorporating Jewish scholarship with civic engagement and political action. Ruth's service and support of countless other institutions, organizations and charities made her a model of generosity.

While Ruth's attention to the needs of her community was commendable, her family was always the focal point of her life. Ruth's devotion to her husband Bernie, sons Selig, Seymour and Jay, her nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, inspired all who knew her.

Ruth's life will be celebrated at the Annual Reishit/Genesis Center Dinner on Tuesday, June 19, 2007. In honor of her memory, Reishit students who have completed their study of the entire Mishnah will make a presentation at the event.

Madam Speaker, words can not capture the generosity of spirit and warmth that Ruth Zises exuded. All that can be said is that she will be terribly missed by the scores of people fortunate enough to have had known her.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing and remembering the exemplary life of Ruth Zises.

RECOGNIZING A GREAT
MINNESOTA GAY RIGHTS LEADER

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is fitting that the Twin Cities Pride Parade falls on the same day that former Minnesota State Senator Allan Spear celebrates his 70th birthday. For those unfamiliar with the legacy Allan created in Minnesota, I want to take this moment to recognize him, thank him, and extend my wishes for a very happy birthday.

Allan served in the Minnesota State Senate from 1972 to 2000. He is widely recognized as not only the first openly gay legislator in Minnesota, but in the Nation, as well. Allan was certainly in uncharted waters—this was long before organizations like the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) or the Victory Fund even existed. I've read accounts that Allan went public because he felt "lousy" for staying silent about his sexuality during an antidiscrimination bill debate. His commitment to equal rights never wavered and I think our new generation of GLBT legislators and allies is a testament to his courage and honesty.

In 1993, Allan was elected President of the Senate—the same year he succeeded in guiding the passage of Minnesota's gay civil rights law. During the debate on this legislation, several senators described homosexuality as "a choice, not a condition of birth." Spear famously replied, "I'm 55 years old; it's not a phase." The amendment to Minnesota's civil rights law is an incredible achievement.

Although I did not have the opportunity to work with Allan during my time in the Minnesota legislature, his accomplishments over 28 years in the State Senate certainly inspire my own work on civil and human rights.

It is an honor for me to recognize Allan during our month of celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of the GLBT community. Allan has made a real difference in the quality of family life in Minnesota. Because of his unwavering commitment, we have much to celebrate, and more to be hopeful for! Thank you, Allan.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
ON INTERNATIONAL UNITED NATIONS
PEACEKEEPING DAY

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 15, 2007

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation commemorating the work of United Nations Peacekeepers by recognizing May 29 as International United Nations Peacekeeping Day.

Since 1945, our U.N. Peacekeepers have aided in resolving a wide array of very complex regional conflicts across the globe. In many cases, these individuals have put themselves at great risk and indeed made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of a safer, more secure global community. Since its inception, the United Nations has undertaken 61 field missions and helped implement 172 peaceful settlements. These missions have ended regional

conflicts and enabled people in more than 45 countries to take part in free and fair elections. More than 2,355 individuals from 113 nations, including the United States, have given their lives to this cause.

In the past 3 years alone, U.N. peacekeeping has helped to initiate missions in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Burundi, Sudan, and East Timor, and bolstered the missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Lebanon. These missions often come with difficult and complex mandates such as containing or preventing the outbreak of conflict and its spill-over across borders or helping implement peace agreements. In 2005 alone, U.N. peacekeepers supported elections in five post-conflict countries, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Iraq, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Through these efforts, over 56 million people were allowed to cast votes.

Currently, the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations has more than 100,000 troops and personnel deployed in 18 peacekeeping missions and 13 political missions worldwide, all with an annual budget of \$6 billion. This U.N. peacekeeping force has grown five-fold over the last 10 years, reflecting not only the broad international support for U.N. peacekeeping, but also the U.S. support for new and expanded peacekeeping missions.

In 2005, the Human Security Report, a major international study funded in part by the Rockefeller Foundation, judged that, perhaps contrary to popular belief, civil strife has plummeted 80 percent worldwide since the early 90s. It attributed that decline to the rise in international activism, in particular the increase in support for and deployment of U.N. peacekeeping missions and their growing complexity.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget recently granted all U.S. contributions made to international peacekeeping activities three-stars, its highest rating. This distinction is reserved for expenditures that "set ambitious goals, achieve results, are well-managed, and improve efficiency."

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the work and courage of our U.N. peacekeepers around the globe and the logistical guidance provided by the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations. I hope you will join me in supporting this resolution drawing attention to these brave men and women and in honoring those who have sacrificed their lives in the name of international peace.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2007

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment offered by the Gentleman from Kentucky that would strip critical Davis-Bacon protections from H.R. 2638, the fiscal year 2008 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The goal of the Davis-Bacon Act is to protect local construction wage standards by preventing contractors from bidding for federally